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SECURITY INFORMATION
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REPORT
CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY Hungary
SUBJECT Economic - Light industry, cellulose factory
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
WHERE PUBLISHED Budapest
DATE PUBLISHED 28 May 1953
LANGUAGE Hungarian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1953
DATE DIST. 28 Sep 1953
NO. OF PAGES 1
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Magyar Nemzet

PLAN PRODUCTION OF CELLULOSE FROM STRAW IN HUNGARY

A plant for converting straw into cellulose is being built in Szolnok and should begin operating by the end of this year. It is hoped that the plant, which will be known as the Szalmacellulozgyar (Straw Cellulose Factory), will be able to use rice straw as a basic material.

According to Gyorgy Vamos, director of the Papiripari Kutato Intezet (Research Institute of the Paper Industry), the first Hungarian cellulose was made 5 years ago. In 1948, Academician Aladar Buzagh was awarded the Kossuth Prize for evolving a process of making cellulose from straw. The Papiripari Kutato Intezet, which was founded in Csepel the following year, helped to perfect Buzagh's process. For the past 3 years, various plants have been experimenting with the process.

Mr. Vamos added that last week the academy called a conference to discuss the possibility of designing a combine which would cut cereals close to the ground. He explained that the combines currently in use cut cereal stalks 30 - 35 centimeters above the ground, thereby wasting the part of the stalk most valuable to cellulose production. Vamos feels that a modified, close-cutting combine will be designed shortly.

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